

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended): A kit for retrofitting a loom, comprising:

a first warp beam;

a second warp beam, wherein the first and second warp beams include retaining members for retaining portions of warp thread in spaced apart substantially parallel relation between the first warp beam and the second warp beam, and the first and second warp beams are attachable to and removable from the loom while the warp thread is retained between the retaining members.

30. (Currently amended): The kit of claim 29, further comprising:

a heddle comprising an eyelet, wherein the eyelet includes an openable break in the circumference of the eyelet, and the openable break allows insertion and removal of a warp thread through the eyelet while the ends of the warp thread remain attached to ~~the loom~~ the first and second warp beams.

31. (New): The kit of claim 29, further comprising:

a deck on the first and second beams, wherein the retaining members are configured in spaced relationship to one another on the deck.

32. (New): The kit of claim 29 wherein the retaining members are spring-mounted to maintain substantially consistent tension on the warp thread.

33. (New): The kit of claim 29, further comprising a retaining bar, wherein the retaining bar is positioned to exert compressive force on the warp thread to help retain the warp thread relative to the retaining members.

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34. (New): The kit of claim 29, further comprising a retention strip positioned adjacent to the retaining members.

35. (New): The kit of claim 34, wherein the retention strip is fabricated with elastic material capable of deflecting when the warp threads are inserted around the retaining members, and returning to substantially original shape.

36. (New): The kit of claim 31, further comprising a plurality of attachment points connected to the deck to attach the warp beam to a loom.

37. (New): The kit of claim 30, wherein a spiral loop between the ends of the heddle comprises an eyelet, and overlapping portions of the spiral loop comprise the break, and the warp thread can be inserted in the eyelet when the heddle is positioned substantially parallel to the warp thread.

38. (New): The kit of claim 30, wherein the break comprises a V-shaped cut in the circumference of the eyelet.

39. (New): The kit of claim 30, wherein the break comprises a split between two overlapping portions of the circumference of the eyelet.

40. (New): The kit of claim 39, further comprising a fastener operable in a closed position to retain the overlapping portions together, and to allow the overlapping portions to be moved apart in an open position to allow the warp thread to be inserted and removed from the eyelet.

41. (New): The kit of claim 40, wherein the fastener comprises at least one protuberance on one of the overlapping portions that engages a corresponding indentation on the other overlapping portion.

42. (New): The kit of claim 30, wherein the break comprises an interlocking snap closure.

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43. (New): The kit of claim 30, wherein one end of the break comprises a movable finger portion, and another end of the break comprises a channel portion configured to engage the finger portion in a closed position.

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